

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 21, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 21, 2022 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:10 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair  
S. Clearwater, Whitby  
R. Dickinson, Brock  
B. Foxton, Uxbridge  
G. Layton, Oshawa, Second Vice-Chair, attended for part of the meeting  
K. Lui, Member at Large  
D. Nguyen, Youth Member  
S. Panchal, Youth Member  
B. Shipp, Member at Large  
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large  
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby, attended the meeting at 7:38 PM

**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, First Vice-Chair  
K. Murray, Member at Large  
A. Panday, Post-Secondary Member

#### **Staff**

Present: A. Bathe, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by K. Lui,  
That the agenda for the April 21, 2022 DEAC meeting, as presented, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

B. Foxton advised that he attended the March 10, 2022 DEAC meeting late but was marked absent. He requested that the minutes be amended to reflect his attendance.

Moved by R. Dickinson, Seconded by B. Foxton,  
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,  
March 10, 2022, as amended, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**5. Delegations**

A) Despina Melohe, Whitby Resident, re: Envision Durham Municipal  
Comprehensive Review – Urban Boundary Expansions

Despina Melohe, participating electronically, appeared with respect to the Envision Durham Municipal Comprehensive Review.

D. Melohe stated that as 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas, climate solutions have to come from cities. She urged the committee to endorse a motion for a modified scenario 5, namely a zero-urban boundary expansion with no new lands dedicated for Employment; to make public the financial costs of each scenario to the taxpayer; to make public the financial costs of climate change mitigation associated with each scenario; and to delay the final decision until after the provincial election.

D. Melohe posed the question of whether cities are being created to address the needs of people or to serve the interests of developers. She stated that housing design choices don't have to be limited to either tall high-rise buildings or sprawl, and that gentle density will optimize the existing urban land within the current boundary and allow character retainment and heritage of streets. She stated that it is important to consider the dynamic, interactive whole; solutions addressing all themes need to be scalable; that the engagement process must be expanded; and input should be collected at each step. She urged the committee to share best practices and endorse a zero urban boundary expansion movement across the province.

B) Helen Brenner, Pickering Resident, re: Envision Durham Municipal  
Comprehensive Review – Urban Boundary Expansions

H. Brenner, participating electronically, appeared with respect to the Municipal Comprehensive Review.

H. Brenner stated that there has never been a time when land use decisions have been as critical as today. She also stated that on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that inaction of governments around the globe to meet Green House Gas reduction targets now means acceleration is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. She further stated that municipalities across the Greater Golden Horseshoe are making critical decisions that could lock in 156,000 acres for development over the next 30 years and that in Durham, the fate of about 17,000 acres sits in the hands of Regional Government and at risk are watersheds, Class 1 agricultural land and natural heritage systems.

H. Brenner stated that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has stated that the equivalent of 175 acres of agricultural land is being developed every day and there is a duty to be wise stewards of the rare and non-renewable soil that is vital to the agricultural system. She stated that keeping the agriculture system intact and healthy strengthens the ecosystem resilience and underpins economic resilience.

H. Brenner requested the committee endorse a motion to freeze the current urban boundaries for both community and employment land needs.

C) Leigh Paulseth, Ajax Resident, re: Need for climate action and protection of natural assets as part of the Envision Durham Land Needs Scenarios

L. Paulseth, participating electronically, appeared with respect to the Municipal Comprehensive Review and Alternative Land Need Scenarios.

L. Paulseth asked the committee to endorse a no urban boundary expansion approach for both community and employment lands within the Region of Durham. She stated that the vast majority of the Town of Ajax falls within the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan. She also stated that she is worried about allowing more development in the headwaters of the Carruthers Creek as it will cause a detrimental effect to the ecosystem.

L. Paulseth stated that if we continue to develop within the watershed, the water quality within the ecosystem is going to be severely impacted. From a habitat point of view, there are numerous rare and endangered species that live within the Carruthers Creek but there is no natural cover to ensure that the ecosystem services will be maintained long term.

L. Paulseth concluded by stating that everything is interconnected and that means every decision made can be an opportunity to make positive change rather than keep the status quo.

D. Melohe, H. Brenner and L. Paulseth responded to questions from the Committee.

## **6. Presentations**

### **A) Envision Durham – Identifying a Regional Natural Heritage System, Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner, Durham Region**

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Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner, Durham Region, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Envision Durham – Draft Regional Natural Heritage System.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Envision Durham – Draft Regional Natural Heritage System
- Current Approach
- Provincial Policy Requirements
- Why Are Natural Heritage Systems Important?
- Approach to Identifying the Draft Regional Natural Heritage System
- Enhancement Opportunity Areas
- Implementation
- Feedback

A. Bathe stated that provincial policy now requires that all municipalities within ecoregions 60 and 70 identify a natural heritage system. She advised that the new direction from the province moves Durham Region from a features based approach to a systems based approach and provided a detailed provincial definition of a Natural Heritage System (NHS).

With regards to the importance of Natural Heritage Systems, A. Bathe stated that isolated features don't function as well as features that are connected within a system, and protecting and connecting core features in a system contributes to healthy functioning and resilient ecosystems. She stated that identifying a NHS shows where core features and their connections may be located so that they can be protected, enhanced and restored. It also supports implementation of the Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan by meeting one of its actions to define one connected Natural Heritage System across the Region.

A. Bathe provided a detailed overview of the exercise used to identify the proposed regional NHS. She stated that a new concept being proposed for the Regional Official Plan that is related to the Regional NHS are enhancement opportunity areas which are identified by the Conservation Authorities and provide helpful information about where restoration, stewardship or other efforts could support the health of the regional NHS. She advised that proposed policy directions were released in Spring 2021 and that staff is utilizing a web based interactive mapping application to facilitate comments on the draft Regional NHS. Comments are requested by May 2, 2022 but may be sent to A. Bathe after the deadline.

A. Bathe responded to questions regarding the challenges with developments that go back more than 30 years ago, and what is being done with regards to habitats that are not protected.

**7. Items for Input**

- A) Envision Durham – Identifying a Regional Natural Heritage System (News Release, Report #2022-P-7, and interactive map viewer)

A copy of the News Release entitled “Draft Regional Natural Heritage System map available for comment”, Report #2022-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Identifying a Regional Natural Heritage System, and interactive map viewer were provided as links.

A. Luqman advised that the deadline for comments is May 2, 2022.

**8. Items for Discussion**

- A) Overview of Alternative Land Need Assessment Scenarios, Colleen Goodchild, Manager Policy & Special Studies (Report #2022-INFO-19 – Envision Durham – Growth Management Study – Release of Land Need Scenarios Assessment Summary Report)

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Growth Management Study – Release of Land Need Scenarios Assessment Summary Report was provided as a link.

C. Goodchild provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Envision Durham – Growth Management Study Alternative Land Needs Scenarios.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Presentation Overview
- Envision Durham: Major Theme Areas
- Growth Management Study
- Scenario Modelling: Key Concepts Explained
  - Community Area Scenarios
  - Employment Area Scenarios
- Employment Area Land Needs Scenarios
- Range of Community Area Scenarios
- Community Area Scenario Assessment: 5 Principles
- Consultation on Alternative Land Needs Scenarios
- Envision Durham – Next Steps

C. Goodchild provided an overview of the Envision Durham process and discussion papers. She stated that the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe prescribes that the Region is to plan for another 1.3 million people and 460,000 jobs by 2051. This represents a significant growth and in response to the feedback received, staff has identified alternative land need scenarios. C. Goodchild advised that once a scenario is selected, and staff knows how much urban land is needed, the next stage of the growth management studies will focus on deciding where the urban expansions should occur. She advised that five community area land needs scenarios have been modelled as well as two employment area scenarios and provided an overview of the scenarios.

Discussion ensued with regards to the range of community area scenarios.

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by K. Lui,  
That the following comments with respect to the Alternative Land  
Need Scenarios Assessment Summary Report be forwarded to the  
Planning Division for consideration:

- i) That the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee is in support of Scenario 2 with regards to the Employment Area Land Needs Scenarios; and
- ii) That the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee is in support of Scenario 5 with regards to the Community Area Land Needs Scenarios.

CARRIED

**B) Pollinator Seed Distribution Project – Spring 2022 Compost Days**

A. Luqman advised that they are planning for the distribution of the pollinator seedlings at the Regional Compost Days event and inquired whether there were any volunteers to assist with the distribution.

She advised that J. Cuthbertson, G. Layton, S. Panchal and D. Nguyen had previously volunteered to help with various tasks, including assembling the seed packets.

Various members offered to assist with the distribution of seedlings at several locations.

**9. For Information**

**A) Resolution from the Town of Ajax, Re: Endorse No Urban Expansion for Community Area in Durham**

A copy of the correspondence dated March 30, 2022 and resolution from the Town of Ajax, regarding Endorse No Urban Expansion for Community Area in Durham was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

B) Letter to DEAC from Steve Parish, Re: Carruthers Creek Headwaters

A copy of the email correspondence to DEAC from Steve Parish regarding Carruthers Creek Headwaters was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

C) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report – Working Group II, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability

A copy of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report Working Group II regarding Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability Paper was provided as a link.

D) Report #2022-INFO-32: Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan: Growing the Greenbelt

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-32 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan: Growing the Greenbelt was provided as a link.

E) Report #2022-INFO-29: Regional Staff Comments on ERO Posting #019-4978: Draft Subwatershed Planning Guide

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-29 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Regional Staff Comments on ERO Posting #019-4978: Draft Subwatershed Planning Guide was provided as a link.

F) Report #2022-INFO-28: Transition to Paperless Waste Collection Calendars

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-28 of the Commissioner of Works regarding Transition to Paperless Waste Collection Calendars was provided as link.

G) Report #2022-INFO-22: Regulatory and policy proposals (Phase 2) under the Conservation Authorities Act

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-22 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Regulatory and policy proposals (Phase 2) under the Conservation Authorities Act was provided as a link.

H) Report #2022-INFO-17: Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing Knowledge for Action

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-17 of the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health regarding Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing Knowledge for Action was provided as a link.

- I) Report #2022-INFO-16: Proposed Wastewater Energy Transfer Project – Dockside Development in the Town of Whitby

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-16 of the Commissioner of Works and Commissioner of Finance regarding Proposed Wastewater Energy Transfer Project – Dockside Development in the Town of Whitby was provided as a link.

- J) Report #2022-INFO-15: Durham Greener Homes Program Update

A copy of Report #2022-INFO-15 of the Chief Administrative Officer regarding Durham Greener Homes Program Update was provided as a link.

- K) Town of Whitby memo to Council – Proposed Changes for the Next Edition of Ontario's Building Code

A copy of the Memorandum from the Town of Whitby dated March 2, 2022 regarding Proposed Changes for the Next Edition of Ontario's Building Code was provided as a link.

- L) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee – Minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting

A copy of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes from the March 8, 2022 meeting was provided as a link.

- M) Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change – Minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

A copy of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change minutes from the March 18, 2022 meeting was provided as a link.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,  
That Information Items 9. A) to M) inclusive, be received for  
information.

CARRIED

## **10. Other Business**

- A) York-Durham Sewage System Primary Trunk Sewer Twinning Environmental Assessment

S. Clearwater advised that she attended a meeting held on March 31 at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant. She advised that an Environmental Assessment is planned for a continuation of the primary sewage trunk to the water pollution control plant later this year.



**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**12. Adjournment**

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by R. Dickinson,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM

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G. Carpentier, Chair  
Durham Environmental Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council